

**UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL**  
**(Small Entity)**

*(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))*

Docket No.  
33051-CNT1

Total Pages in this Submission  
35

**TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS**

Mail Stop Patent Application

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Transmitted herewith for filing under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) and 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b) is a new utility patent application for an invention entitled:

**VACUUM PACKAGING APPARATUS AND METHOD**

and invented by:

**SCOTT KNOWLTON and TIMOTHY A. GROVE**

If a **CONTINUATION APPLICATION**, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:

Continuation     Divisional     Continuation-in-part (CIP)    of prior application No.: 10/085,447

Which is a:

Continuation     Divisional     Continuation-in-part (CIP)    of prior application No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Which is a:

Continuation     Divisional     Continuation-in-part (CIP)    of prior application No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed are:

**Application Elements**

1.  Filing fee as calculated and transmitted as described below
2.  Specification having 23 pages and including the following:

- a.  Descriptive Title of the Invention
- b.  Cross References to Related Applications (*if applicable*)
- c.  Statement Regarding Federally-sponsored Research/Development (*if applicable*)
- d.  Reference to Sequence Listing, a Table, or a Computer Program Listing Appendix
- e.  Background of the Invention
- f.  Brief Summary of the Invention
- g.  Brief Description of the Drawings (*if filed*)
- h.  Detailed Description
- i.  Claim(s) as Classified Below
- j.  Abstract of the Disclosure

17302 U.S.P.T.O.  
10/691244

102203

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**Application Elements (Continued)**

3.  Drawing(s) (when necessary as prescribed by 35 USC 113)  
a.  Formal Number of Sheets \_\_\_\_\_ 8  
b.  Informal Number of Sheets \_\_\_\_\_
4.  Oath or Declaration  
a.  Newly executed (original or copy)  Unexecuted  
b.  Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) (for continuation/divisional application only)  
c.  With Power of Attorney  Without Power of Attorney  
d.  **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**  
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application,  
see 37 C.F.R. 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
5.  Incorporation By Reference (usable if Box 4b is checked)  
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under  
Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby  
incorporated by reference therein.
6.  CD ROM or CD-R in duplicate, large table or Computer Program (Appendix)
7.  Application Data Sheet (See 37 CFR 1.76)
8.  Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all must be included)  
a.  Computer Readable Form (CFR)  
b.  Specification Sequence Listing on:  
i.  CD-ROM or CD-R (2 copies); or  
ii.  Paper  
c.  Statement(s) Verifying Identical Paper and Computer Readable Copy

**Accompanying Application Parts**

9.  Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))  
10.  37 CFR 3.73(B) Statement (when there is an assignee)  
11.  English Translation Document (if applicable)  
12.  Information Disclosure Statement/PTO-1449  Copies of IDS Citations  
13.  Preliminary Amendment  
14.  Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) (Should be specifically itemized)  
15.  Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed)  
16.  Certificate of Mailing  
 First Class  Express Mail (Specify Label No.): EL 993325749 US

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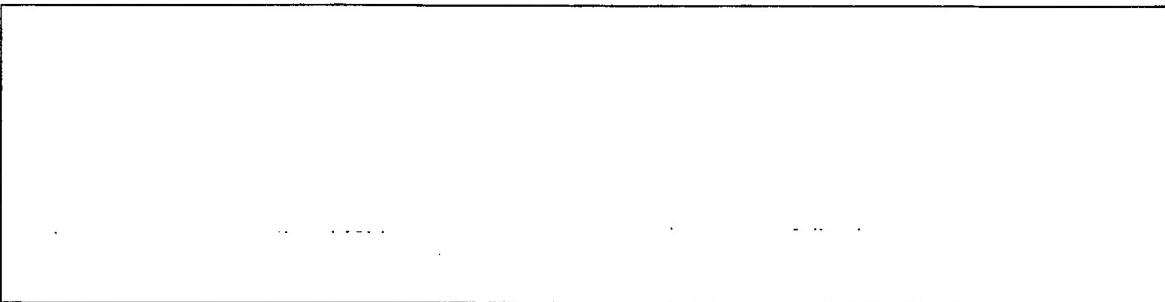
*(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))*

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**Accompanying Application Parts (Continued)**

17.  Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.  
 (Optional) Small Entity Statement(s) - Specify Number of Statements Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

18.  Additional Enclosures (*please identify below*):  


**Request That Application Not Be Published Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)**

19.  Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2), Applicant hereby requests that this patent application not be published pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(1). Applicant hereby certifies that the invention disclosed in this application has not and will not be the subject of an application filed in another country, or under a multilateral international agreement, that requires publication of applications 18 months after filing of the application.

***Warning***

*An applicant who makes a request not to publish, but who subsequently files in a foreign country or under a multilateral international agreement specified in 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)(B)(i), must notify the Director of such filing not later than 45 days after the date of the filing of such foreign or international application. A failure of the applicant to provide such notice within the prescribed period shall result in the application being regarded as abandoned, unless it is shown to the satisfaction of the Director that the delay in submitting the notice was unintentional.*

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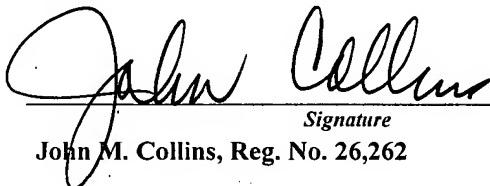
(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Docket No.  
33051-CNT1Total Pages in this Submission  
35**Fee Calculation and Transmittal****CLAIMS AS FILED**

| For   | #Filed | #Allowed | #Extra | Rate                    | Fee             |
|---|--------|----------|--------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Total Claims                                    | 20     | - 20 =   | 0      | x \$9.00                | \$0.00          |
| Indep. Claims                                   | 2      | - 3 =    | 0      | x \$43.00               | \$0.00          |
| Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) |        |          |        |                         | \$0.00          |
|   |        |          |        | <b>BASIC FEE</b>        | <b>\$385.00</b> |
| OTHER FEE (specify purpose)                     |        |          |        |                         | \$0.00          |
|   |        |          |        | <b>TOTAL FILING FEE</b> | <b>\$385.00</b> |

- A check in the amount of \$385.00 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
- The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 19-0522 as described below.
- Charge the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ as filing fee.
- Credit any overpayment.
- Charge any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17.
- Charge the issue fee set in 37 C.F.R. 1.18 at the mailing of the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.311(b).

Dated: 22 October 2003

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
John M. Collins, Reg. No. 26,262

\*23589\*

16805  
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

cc:

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of:

KNOWLTON, Scott

Serial No. :

Filed:

VACUUM PACKAGING APPARATUS  
AND METHOD

Docket No. 33051-CNT1

Group Art Unit No.

Examiner:

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

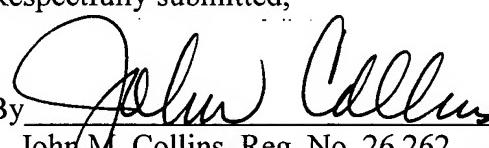
Sir:

TRANSMITTAL

Transmitted herewith are: Transmittal; Specification; Claims; Abstract (23 pages); 8 drawing sheets; \$385.00 filing fee; and return postcard. These documents are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 in an envelope addressed to: Box New Patent Application, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 22, 2003.

EL 993325749 US

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT(S)